

A tribute to Tim Rogers

by Cheryl Reid, *Beacon Media* director
Tim passed away on 25th August 2013

Tim's was a life lived to the full, passionate and determined to make a difference. He touched the hearts and lives of many... particularly students and teachers. He was generous and sacrificial.

One of Tim's favourite heroes of the faith was Martin Luther King. It is significant that Tim went to be with the Lord in the same week as the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's death. Tim pointed students to the example of Martin Luther King in his valedictory speech at Lighthouse Christian College. He quoted King: "A man who won't die for something is not fit to live".

Striving towards the goal

Tim gave his all to everything he did. He took risks and ran to achieve his goals. He loved to climb mountains, to take on difficult challenges. Building a school was a new challenge, a new mountain to climb. A story that he wrote for students told of an experience that happened in his youth, while hiking in the Himalayas. He describes the ascent to the summit of Thorong La in Nepal.

I walked this alone with minimal kit and a small backpack, and almost died on the pass when I fell through ice up to my armpits. Some dope smoking German party pulled me up. On the previous night a Japanese walker died there. His body was buried under a pile of rocks.

God had a purpose for Tim, which has been amazingly fulfilled. In Tim's 30 or so years of being a Christian, he has achieved more than many who have been Christians for double that time.

A humble servant

Tim was humble, willing to learn from others. I first met Tim when I took up a teaching position at the original Hillcrest Christian College, Nyora. It was a tiny mud brick school with few resources. But being in the bush there were the wonderful resources to be found in God's creation, which he used to point the students to God the creator. Tim would have to start the generator to get the electricity supply going each day. He didn't complain. He had arrived at Hillcrest the year before I came, following an eventful period of overseas travel, during which time God touched him. As a result, Tim decided to commit his life to God's service.

His first Christian school was actually in India, in the community of Mother Teresa, another of Tim's heroes of the faith. There he had learned to teach with nothing but a stick of chalk and a blackboard. At Hillcrest Nyora we developed a God-centred curriculum, which was further developed at Tim's next school south of Brisbane, where he built a two-campus school.

Tim's next challenge was to build a secondary school in London, an extension of a Christian Primary school, but on a separate campus. This school he built from scratch, on a small piece of real estate, in an area where vandalism was rife. After building Thames Christian College it was back to Victoria to take up principalship of Lighthouse Christian College.

The inspirer

Wherever Tim went he left his mark. At the Brisbane schools and at Lighthouse Christian College Tim named buildings after heroes of the faith. He wanted students to have Christian heroes, positive role models...true examples of dedication to God.

Tim pointed his students to Jesus. One of his exercises he set for his students at Ballarat Christian College, (which followed Lighthouse), was to ponder various faces of Jesus, as portrayed by different artists. He wanted them to think about what Jesus actually looked like. He wondered himself. Now Tim will know the answer to this quest. As principal Tim knew his students and had direct input into their lives. He didn't just sit in an ivory tower called 'the principal's office'. He taught them.

Original and creative

Tim believed that the only things worth doing were the things you were called to do... not doing the same old stuff, but pushing on to do new things for God. Here's an extract from one of his devotions:

"In our ministries we try to do things with great vigour and while they are worthwhile, they may not be the things that God intends for us to do. They may have been our responsibility in times past, but we weary ourselves with them now. New seasons mean new activities; former things can have an obsolescence date written in to them by The Creator. We need to hear from God what needs doing at this season of our lives. Anointing exists for these assignments, and the joy of teaching is found doing what God intends for us not straying into other projects and insisting that God bless them."

Tim had a love for art, music and nature. He loved the art of the masters, and pondered their portrayal of Biblical characters, especially Jesus. Tim loved all kinds of music. He will now be listening to the most beautiful music of heaven. His eyes will be feasting on the most beautiful scenery, even more glorious than the Tasmanian wilderness.

A legacy to Christian education

Tim was not concerned about material possessions. It was people that mattered, and making a mark on the world. He was extremely intelligent and pursued excellence. He challenged others to do the same. Tim was a teacher of teachers. He has left a great legacy to Christian education...original and thought provoking, not just ordinary stuff.

He left a legacy, not only in the school environment, but through his writings which he was so passionate about. Tim and I set up a website called 'Beacon

Media', into which he poured his heart and soul. It was Tim's way of extending his generous spirit, giving gifts of himself through free downloads of student exercises, and motivational material for teachers. He wrote support material for students with additional needs and emotional problems for whom he had a great compassion. He wrote 93 devotions for teachers, all deep, poetic and prophetic.

After knowing Tim, you can never be the same. He inspired and motivated us to reach for the things that mattered. We will miss Tim's friendship, warm friendly and accepting, his cheery face and fun-loving jokes. But we know we will be united with him in the future. I'm sure he is making his mark on heaven right now, and having a wonderful time with his favourite heroes, of which the greatest is Jesus.

An extract from 'Portside', the final in a set of Tim's 'devotions for teachers'

Our home address is Paradise. You are here on earth as an alien, and an ambassador, on temporary assignment. Heaven is not what the comedians portray in pearly gates jokes; we don't want such farcical images to dominate our thinking on this vital subject as we progress towards our terminus here on earth. In fact it's less a terminus, and more like an airport. There is a ticket printed for you and a seat assigned all ready to take you into the presence of Jesus, His Spirit and your Abba Father. And with them stand a huge crowd of people who arrived before you as well as all manner of splendid angelic beings. When running a marathon, competitors can hit the dreaded "wall" and hear seductive thoughts to "just sit out and rest for a while, just stop for a bit". If the runner stops and sheds momentum it is highly unlikely that they will re enter the race and finish. The image of the crowd cheering at the finish line and the sense of satisfaction overrides the natural urge to stop. For us too we think of Moses, Esther, Mary, David, Paul and Ruth amongst all the other greats like Mother Teresa waiting for our arrival. Our ancestors in our family tree and friends are there expectant, eyes on us.

No quitting, no slacking off. Today I run the race of life with my eyes firmly set on the finish line.

Tim's resources on Beacon Media:

Tim has been responsible for most of the resources in these categories on our website:

- Secondary education – all categories
- Primary education – "Building Blocks" Units of study were developed from our God-centred curriculum that we wrote collaboratively in the early days
- Teaching tools and administration – most articles
- Devotions for teachers

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